another common meeting ground, and numerous theoretical models have been developed. Hassan (1979) reviews the current literature on the interaction of demography and archaeology. His statement (1979:138) is noteworthy: "In addition to theoretical models, demographic explanation in archaeology must be based on empirical data."

This empirical foundation rests on adequate, systematic recovery of human remains. The basic procedures for determining sex and age at death, reviewed previously, are applicable here. Once these basic determinations have been made, the group can be characterized in a number of ways. The basic descriptive tools include the allocation of all individuals, no matter how fragmentary, into five-year periods and summarizing the number and percentage of the population in each category. These basic data can then be used to determine mortality and survivorship curves, and the construction of a life table which expresses percentages of deaths, survivors, probability of death, and life expectance, for those individuals in each age category. Ubelaker (1978) reviews the rationale and necessary procedures for using these methods with skeletal samples. Weiss (1973) provides model life tables for numerous types of groups with specific technocultural development. Although these models were generated from both ethnographic and archaeological data, they provide important ways of interpreting demographic information. Swedlund and Armelagos (1976) review most aspects of demographic anthropology and provide many basic sources. Acsadi and Nemeskeri (1970) also have gathered extensive data on the mortality and life expectancy of past groups.

Regardless of the promise of demographic interpretation for unraveling the cultural processes of the past, the reliability of the reconstruction rests on the accuracy of the age and sex estimates and the representativeness of the skeletal sample. The latter is directly related to archaeology because errors can enter by undetected differential disposal of the dead, inadequate archaeological sampling of a cemetery, and excavator selection for recovery of only the more complete and preserved specimens. Differential preservation, especially of infants and children, also may distort the demographic reconstruction.

The special problems encountered in ossuaries are reviewed by Ubelaker (1974) and the analysis should serve as a model for others considering reconstruction and interpretation of paleodemographic data. Such material also has been used in attempting to determine population pressure and estimates of total population size among North American Indians. Lovejoy et al. (1977) document a large group of Late Woodland individuals at the Libben Site in Ohio. Both of these works illustrate the utility of analyzing adult females and males separately to discover patterns of differential access to resources and the various features contributing to mortality which can be related to socio-cultural dynamics. Blakely (1971) examines the mortality profiles of Archaic, Middle Woodland, and Middle Mississippian